

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Craig Samuel for his exceptional foresight in the culinary business that has provided Brooklyn with tastes from around the country.

**SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL  
REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, the Southeastern Region of the United States has many citizens that work to make our Region a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, President Barack Obama appointed five outstanding individuals to serve as directors of the Southeastern agencies, Cassius Butts, Small Business Administration, Gwendolyn Keyes-Fleming, Environmental Protection Agency, Edward Jennings, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Paulette Norvel Lewis, U.S. Department of Labor and Carlis V. Williams, Department of Health and Human Services, each individual being charged to bring community service, honor and excellence in government; and

Whereas, the Southeastern Regional Directors are promoting and providing the concept of One Community-One Goal by working with and for individuals in all walks of life to make our Region a place where the needs of the people are met; and

Whereas, these directors give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community and our nation by providing leadership and service; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by these directors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Cassius Butts, Gwendolyn Keyes-Fleming, Edward Jennings, Paulette Norvel Lewis and Carlis V. Williams for their outstanding service to America;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 27, 2011 as Southeastern Federal Regional Directors Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of October, 2011.

**HONORING RICHARD "RICK"  
ROBINSON**

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Richard (Rick) Robinson, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, and to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the citizens of Stanislaus County.

Richard (Rick) Robinson was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in September, 2004. Prior to his appointment in Stanislaus County, he had, since 1991, held the position of Chief Administrator with Tehama County. Rick started his local govern-

ment career in 1981 in the Tehama County Auditor-Controller's Office as an Accountant. In 1986, he was elected Auditor-Controller and ran unopposed for a second four-year term in 1990.

Mr. Robinson currently serves on several local Committees, including the Community Hospice Board of Directors, the Governing Board of Doctors Medical Center, Stanislaus Workforce Alliance Board of Directors, and the Valley First Credit Union Supervisory Committee.

Rick was recently honored by the Stanislaus County Equal Rights Commission as a recipient of the 2011 Annual Dale Butler Equal Rights Award for exemplary service in equal employment opportunity matters and leadership in promoting equal rights.

Faced with severe financial challenges during the current economic crisis, Mr. Robinson led an effort to develop a multi-year framework around which the County Budget functions—a strategy which enables the County to address both current and future year budget shortfalls in a systematic and proactive manner.

During his career with Stanislaus County, Rick led many efforts aimed at strengthening the County Health Care safety net, including successful initiatives to attain the Federally Qualified Health Care Facility Designation in the County's Health Clinic system, a multi-year effort to retain the County Residency Program, and the sale and transition of the Stanislaus Behavioral Health Center to private ownership.

Mr. Robinson has also led efforts to create an Animal Services Joint Powers Agency, construct a state-of-the-art Animal Shelter, create the new Modesto Regional Fire Authority, securitize future tobacco settlement revenues in excess of \$40 million and establish, with board approval, a capital facilities revolving loan fund to assist in financing future County construction projects, and coordinate the County's 2011 redistricting efforts.

Rick was an honors graduate of California State University, Chico, earning his degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He is a lifetime selection to Beta Gamma Sigma, a national scholastic honor society for business graduates.

As Chief Executive Officer with Stanislaus County, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Robinson oversees all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which includes 26 County departments, a \$900 million operating budget and over 3600 employees.

Rick has been married to his wife Kathy for thirty-seven years. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Richard (Rick) Robinson, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, for his numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

**A TRIBUTE TO KESHA TOWNSEL**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kesha Townsel for her devotion to the public education and youth in Brooklyn.

Ms. Townsel is the Assistant Principal of Public School 5. She has served in various

positions since joining the staff of Public School 5 in September, 2000. Ms. Townsel was a third grade teacher for 5 years, Business Manager for 5 years, and is presently an assistant Principal. Ms. Townsel began her teaching career with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Brooklyn College. She then served in residence as a Speech Therapist in an Early Intervention Center at Downstate Hospital.

Ms. Townsel was a member of the first cohort of the New York City Teaching Fellows. Through that program she earned her Master Degree in Elementary Education. Although being a classroom teacher, Ms. Townsel continued to provide speech and language therapy services to children in NYC's Early Intervention Program. Ms. Townsel has served as Business Manager and Staff Developer since September 2005. During that time Ms. Townsel earned her advanced Masters Degree in School District Leadership through a compact with the UFT and Stony Brook University.

In her management role, Ms. Townsel has provided various services to the children of Public School 5. Ms. Townsel collaborated in providing programs such as; New York Cares, Scholastic Book Fairs, Learning Gardens, Club Getaway, Poly-tech University & New York University. Ms. Townsel's collaboration with Poly-Tech University and NYU has increased the experiences in the Math, Science, Engineering and Technology areas for students at Public School 5. This collaboration helped to form Public School 5's first LEGO Robotics Team. Ms. Townsel, in collaboration with the Poly-Tech fellow during the 2010–2011 school year; assisted the team in winning a First Place trophy for "Team Work" and helped them qualify for the NYC competition at the Jacobs Javitz Center.

Ms. Townsel continues to strive for excellence for the students of Public School 5. She provides speech therapy, volunteers on her housing development board, and sings with a local community choir, as well as assists with various educationally founded organizations such as the Caring Educators and the Adelaide Sanford Institute. She has also taught NYC-DOE Budgeting as a guest speaker for the past two semesters at Long Island University.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Townsel for her unwavering support to education and youth in Brooklyn.

**UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OF ALAN  
GROSS**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere concern over the unjust imprisonment of Alan Gross by the Cuban government. A true humanitarian, Mr. Gross was sentenced in March to 15 years in prison for "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba.

Before the sentencing earlier this year, Mr. Gross had already been imprisoned for two years without charge. He was in Cuba as part of a USAID contract to provide support to members of the Cuban Jewish community

when he was arrested. He was helping to improve their access to the internet and to build an intranet. Never did any of his actions pose a threat or danger to the Cuban government. Because of his unethical imprisonment, Mr. Gross, who is 62 years old, is declining in health and spirit and quick action must be taken.

Mr. Gross is an international development specialist and social worker. He has positively impacted the lives of people in over 50 countries, including the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and Haiti. His work has always focused on helping people.

I join my constituents of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Mr. Gross' wife Judy, their two daughters, and my Colleagues Senator BEN CARDIN and Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN in calling for the speedy and unconditional release of Allan Gross.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 30, 2011, I was not present for rollcall vote 869 on passage of H.R. 3094, the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.

Had I been present for rollcall 869, I would have voted "no."

#### A TRIBUTE TO THEOPHINE ABAKPORO

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Theophine Abakporo for his dynamic approach to healthcare in my district of Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Abakporo, M.D. is the Medical Director/Chairman, Emergency Services of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine in Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Abakporo has worked with Wyckoff for the last fourteen years, and has been instrumental in forging a relationship between the community and the hospital. He is also an Attending Physician in Emergency Medicine at Brookdale University Hospital & Medical Center. Dr. Abakporo is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Disaster Medicine.

While pursuing his medical career Dr. Abakporo became deeply involved in the health care needs of inner-city communities in the United States. Dr. Abakporo worked hard and committed himself to participating in health outreach and other programs related to the well being of the Brooklyn communities such as Ocean Hill, Brownsville, East New York, BedStuy, Bushwick and Ridgewood communities. This strong willingness to help and care for people, contributed to his interest and focus in the field of Emergency Medicine and Pre-Hospital Care.

Dr. Abakporo is the recipient of a Congressional Award of the U.S. House of Representatives, and an award in Health Care Excellence in Community Service. He is a Healthcare Advisor to Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS, 10th Congressional District, New York. He was also appointed Chairman of the Health Advisory Council of the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey by Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

In response to the increasing need for disaster awareness and management, Dr. Abakporo has taken further training and certification. He is certified by the United States Department of Homeland Security in Healthcare Leadership and Administrative decision making in responses to weapons of mass destruction (WMD). He is certified by the United States Army in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive incidents (CBRNE). In addition, he is certified by the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) in On-line—Medical Control.

Dr. Abakporo is an accomplished, young and dynamic physician, with a distinguished track record of working successfully with healthcare professionals, government leaders and community groups to address health care issues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Theophine Abakporo for providing an intuitive approach to healthcare in his community and to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING LORETTA KING

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Loretta King, a champion for civil rights, a loving wife and mother, and a dedicated public servant.

Today, Loretta is celebrating her retirement most recently as the career Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. In total, Loretta has dedicated more than 32 years of her life in defense of our Nation and the public at large.

Loretta's career is one self-sacrifice and commitment to protecting the rights of all Americans, without regard to race, gender, or political affiliation.

As a career-track civil servant, Loretta epitomizes a Justice Department lawyer; Loretta did so without seeking the limelight, year after year, day in and day out, for all her career. Starting as a law clerk while completing her studies, Loretta literally rose up the ranks at the Justice Department to become the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the government's chief civil rights advocate.

After graduating in 1990 from American University, Washington College of Law, Loretta was chosen by the Justice Department's Legal Honors Program. From 1980 to 1990, Loretta served as a line attorney in the Civil Rights Division's Employment Litigation Section, tasked with enforcing Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In this post, Loretta led and settled the Justice Department's first sexual harassment case as well as its first paternity leave case. Over the next 20 years, Loretta worked in both the Justice Department's Civil and Civil Rights

Divisions. In 1992, Loretta was tapped to serve as the Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section. In 1994, Loretta was elevated to her current role as the Civil Rights Division's Deputy Assistant Attorney General, where she has served continuously for 17 years, except during temporary assignments to other senior roles in the Division. Specifically, in 2009, Loretta served as her Division's Acting Assistant Attorney General, pending confirmation to that post of Thomas Perez. From August 2010 through June 2011, Loretta led the Civil Rights Division's Employment Litigation Section as its Acting Chief.

A civil rights legal pioneer, Loretta became one of the highest ranking women and persons of color to serve in the Justice Department, and the first African-American woman to hold the positions in the Civil Rights Division of Acting Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

As a Member of Congress representing Americans who know all too well the sting of injustice, I am here to salute Loretta's tireless work and long service upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. As Robert F. Kennedy once said, "few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." Loretta has done just that.

Again, I ask the House to celebrate Loretta as a servant to her family and country as well as defender of the civil rights of all people, including the residents of the Nation's capital.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing a floor vote on Wednesday, November 30, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted: "No" on rollcall No. 869, On Final Passage of H.R. 3094—the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.

#### HONORING CHICK-FIL-A

##### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, we need businesses to set up shop in our community to provide the goods and services that are needed in order for our citizens to survive and thrive on a day-to-day basis; and

Whereas, in 2001, Mr. Tony Royal opened the 1,000th Chick-fil-A restaurant at Turner Hill Road here in Lithonia, Georgia to service the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and nearby communities; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal is the owner and operator of the restaurant, he credits all of the success to his team: the sales, the community outreach, the community partnership, and the promotion of scholarships; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal and the Chick-fil-A team at Turner Hill continues to be a resource